

Copies Part of the Evidence taken in the  
Examination of the Mormon  
Parsonage before Judge King.

Not to be opened



Copy of the testimony, given before Hon<sup>ble</sup>  
Aurim A. May Judge of S<sup>up</sup> Judicial Circuit  
in the State of Missouri, of the Court house in  
Richmond. Before Criminal Court of Inquiry  
begin Nov 12<sup>th</sup> 1838. State of Mo. vs. Joseph  
Smith Jr. Hiram Smith, Sidney Rigdon,  
Parley P. Pratt, Lyman Wight, Amasa Lyman  
Geo. W. Robertson, Isaac B. Beman, Hanson Phelps,  
Washington Lewis, Sidney Turner, John Beck  
Harrison, Jacob Gates, Samuel Haldenbrook  
Geo. W. Kimball, Pepp D Hunter, and others.  
Marion C. Alred, Wm Alred, Geo. Grant, Darwin  
Chase, Elihu Johnson, Elwin S. Tappan,  
Zedekiah Owens, Isaac Morley, Thos. H. Cook  
Moses Clawson, John J. Tanner, Paul S. Sayer  
Paul J. Thomas, Alex. H. Bagg, Elisha Edwards,  
John S. Higby, Ebenezer Bagg, Ben. C. Cowg,  
Eben. Robinson, Simon Johnson, Wm. Henderson  
David Pettigrew, Edward Padmapi, Francis  
Higby, David Brampton, George Stumble, Jos.  
W. Younger, Henry Fabrizio, John Smith  
Sheffield, Daniel, La. Hume, and others.  
Ben. Jones, Dan. Jones, John J. Earl, and  
Norman Sharen, who were charged with, and  
several crimes against the peace of the State,  
Mormon, Big Game, &c. &c. &c. &c. &c. &c. &c. &c.  
Samson & family, &c. &c. &c. &c. &c. &c. &c. &c.  
examined on behalf of the State. The process  
is that about 4 months ago a band called  
the Campbell or Zion, since called the Anti  
band was formed of the members of the Mormon  
Church, the original object of which was to drive  
from the county of Caldwell, all those who  
dissented from the Mormon Church, in which  
they are, and a number of the disaffection  
of them concerned. I consider Joseph Smith Jr.  
as the prime mover and organizer of this Anti  
band - The officers of the band, according to  
their grades, were brought before him at a  
school house, together with Hiram Smith &  
Sidney Rigdon, the three composing the first  
presidency of the Mormon Church. Joseph Smith  
then & prophesied over them, declaring  
the



that they should be the means, in one hand, of  
of bringing forth the millions of the world. It  
was stated by Joseph Smith Jr. that it was necessary  
this band should be bound together by a cove-  
nant. That those who revealed the secrets of  
the society should be put to death. The Cove-  
nant taken by all the Kangle band was as  
follows. I trust they declared before God their  
right hands. "In the name of Jesus Christ the  
Son of God, I do solemnly obligate myself, one  
to another, never to reveal the secret purpose  
of this society, called the Knights of Zion.  
I should never do the same. I hold my life for  
the forfeiture!" The President Joseph Smith  
together with his two Councilors, Benjamin  
D. Oliver, and George W. Cannon, and the  
heads of the Church, and the members of the  
Church, all bound by this covenant to  
keep the secrets of God. The instruction was given  
by Joseph Smith Jr. that if any of them should get  
a difficulty, the rest should help him out,  
that they should stand by each other right or  
wrong. This was the first time that the  
meeting was held. It was held for the  
Smith Jr. and his two Councilors, who were, does  
not know what they were to do. The President  
he knows that all the rest of the society are  
devoted, except Sidney Hannon, and the others.  
Zed' Angus, Thos' Smith, John Hannon, Charles  
Thomas, David Relligson, George W. Cannon,  
Heard, Ben Jones, and Norman Hannon.  
At the election, and report, a report came to far  
more than 120 members, and they were  
called, and called for 20 volunteers to accompany  
me to Adam and Hannon. The first time  
in company, Hannon to see into this matter.  
I was the about 120 members, all company, and  
to Adam and Hannon. All Joseph Smith Jr. in com-  
pany, when we arrived there, I found the re-  
port, saying that Hannon was 1000. We visited  
Mr. Adam Black about 150 or 200 men of us  
arrived. Joseph Smith was commanding, and if he  
had not signed the paper he did, it was the same.



understanding & belief that he would have shared the fate of the dissenters. Sidney Rigdon and Lyman Wright were at Adam when we went to Blacks & advised the movement.

As regards the affair at De Wit, I know little personally, but I hear and Mr. S. Rigdon <sup>say</sup> they had gone down to De Wit where it was said a mob had collected to wage war upon the Mormons residing in <sup>Carroll</sup> Caldwell County & that Joseph Smith & with his friends went down to De Wit to give aid & help to his brethren, the company, as I presume, were armed. They returned armed. Hiram Smith & Geo. W. Robertson were in the company. Imaji Lyman went to see what was going on. I hear these persons say they were in Hinkles Camp at De Wit several days. When the Mormons returned from De Wit it was rumoured that a mob was collecting in Davis City. Jos

Smith Jr, the Sunday before the late disturbances in Davis, at a church meeting, gave notice that he wished the whole County collected on the next day (Monday) at Far West. He declared, on Sunday or Monday I don't recollect which) that all who did not take up arms in defence of the Mormons of Davis, should be considered as Tories, and should take their exit ~~at once~~ <sup>from</sup> the County.

At the meeting on Monday, where persons met from all parts of the County of Caldwell, Jos Smith Jr took the pulpit & delivered an address, in which he said, that we had been an injured people, driven violently from Jackson City, that we had appealed to the Governor, magistrates, judges & even to the President of the U. States & there had been no redress for us, and that now a mob was about to destroy the rights of our brethren of Davis City and that it was high time that we should take measures to defend our own rights. In the address he related an anecdote about a captain who applied to a Dutchman to purchase potatoes, & he refused to sell



sell. The Captain then Cha. & this com-  
 pany, several different times, not to  
 touch the Dutchmans potatoes, In the morn-  
 ing the Dutchman had not a potatoe left in  
 his patch. This was in reference to touching  
 no property, in our expedition to Davis  
 City that did not belong to us. but he told  
 us that the <sup>children</sup> people of God did not go to war  
 at their own expense. A vote was taken  
 whether the brethren should embody and go  
 down to Davis to attack the mob. This ques-  
 tion was put by the prophet Jos Smith Jr  
 & passed unanimously, with a few exceptions.  
 Captains Patton & Brunsen were appoint-  
 ed commanders of the Mormons by Jos Smith Jr  
 to go to Davis, he frequently called these men  
 generals. I once had a command as an  
 officer but Jos Smith Jr removed me from it  
 & asked him the reason & he assigned that he  
 had another office for me; after Mr  
 Rigdon told me I was to fill the office of  
 Surgeon to attend to the sick & wounded.  
 After we arrived at Richmon in Davis, a  
 council was held, at night composed of Jos  
 Smith Jr, Geo. W. Robertson, Hiram Smith  
 Captains Patton & Brunsen, Lyman Wight  
 Pres R Cahoon, P. P. Pratt and myself &  
 perhaps Mr Buckle - Pres Rigdon was  
 not present, he remained at Far West; a  
 correspondence was kept up between him &  
 Jos Smith Jr. I heard Mr Rigdon read one of  
 the letters from Smith which as I remember  
 was about as follows That he knew from  
 prophesy & from the revelation of Jesus  
 Christ that the enemies of the Kingdom were  
 in their hands, & that they (the mormon church)  
 should succeed - Rigdon on reading the  
 letter said it gave him great <sup>consolation</sup> satisfaction  
 that to have such authority that the Kingdom  
 of God was rolling on - In the above  
 referred to council Mr Smith spoke of the  
 grievances we had suffered in Jackson, Clay,  
 Kirtland & other places. declared that we must



in future stand up for our rights as citizens of the U. States, & as Saints of the most high God. & that it was the will of God we should do so. That we should be free and independant, and that as the State of Miss-ouri and the U. States would not protect us it was high time that we should <sup>up</sup> as the saints of the most high God & protect ourselves & take the Kingdom. Lyman Wight observed that before the winter was over he thought we would be in St Louis & take it. Smith charged them that they should be united in supporting each other. Smith said on some occasion that one should chase a thousand and two put ten thousand to flight, that he considered the U. States rotten, he compared the Mormon Church to the little stone spoken of by the prophet Daniel & that the Dipenters first & the States next was part of the image that should be destroyed by this little stone. The Council was called on to vote the measures of Smith, which they did in animosity. On the next day Capt Patten, who was called by the prophet Capt Fear naught, took command of about 100 armed men & told them that he had a job for them to do & that the work of the Lord was rolling on, & they must be united. He then led his troops to Galatin, saying he was going to attack the snob there. He made a rush into Galatin, dispersed the few men there and took the goods out of Stallings' store, & carried them to Big Horn. & afterwards saw the store house on fire. When we returned to Big Horn the goods were deposited in the Lord's store house under the care of bishop Vincent Knight. Orders were strictly given that all the goods should be deposited in the Lord's store house no individuals were to appropriate anything to themselves until a general distribution should be made. Jos. Smith Jr was at Adam ondi Ahmon giving directions about things in general connected with the war. When Patten returned from Galatin to Adam ondi Ahmon, the goods were divided or appor-



-tioned out amongst those engaged, and these  
 affairs were conducted under the superin-  
 tendency of the first presidency. A part  
 of the goods were brought to Far West, on  
 their arrival under the care of Capt Fear-  
 naught, Priest Rigdon and others shouted the  
 hosannas to the victors. - On the day  
 Patton went to Galatin. Col. Wright went  
 to Mill Port, as I understood. I saw a great  
 many cattle, beds, furniture &c brought out  
 our camps by the Mormons. After we re-  
 turned to Far West, the troops were con-  
 -stantly kept in motion; and there was  
 a council held at the house of Priest Rigdon  
 to determine who should be chiefs. It was  
 determined that Col Wright should be commander  
 in chief at Adam and Ahmon, Benson  
 Capt of the flying horse of Davis, Col Hinck-  
 le should be commander in chief of the Far  
 West troops, Capt Patton Capt of the flying  
 horse or cavalry, and that the prophet  
 Jos Smith Jr should be commander in  
 chief of the whole Kingdom. The Council  
 was composed of Jos Smith Jr, Capt  
 Fearnaught alias Patton, Col. Hinckle,  
 Col Wright & Priest Rigdon. The object of the  
 council was in furtherance of the scheme  
 proposed in Council in Davis City referred to  
 above - after this council Fearnaught dis-  
 -puted as to the chief command of the far west troops  
 & had a smart altercation about it with Hinckle  
 but Smith proposed that they agree to disagree  
 and go on for the good of the Kingdom. The troops  
 were kept together until the militia came out  
 lately; there was from 100 to 500 men as I should sup-  
 -pose under arms. - It was about the time that  
 the militia <sup>came</sup> out, lately to Far West under Gen Lucas  
 that our prophet assembled the troops together at  
 Far West into a hollow square, and addressed them  
 and stated to them that the Kingdom of God should  
 be set up & should never fall, and for every one that  
 we lacked in number, of those who came against  
 us the Lord would send angles, who would fight for



us & that we should be victorious - After the militia had been near Far West a while, in an address Smith said that those troops were militia, & that we were militia too, and both sides clever fellows, & that he advised them to know nothing of what had happened, to say nothing & to keep dark; - that he Smith had forgotten more than he had ever known - After it was ascertained that the militia had arrived, intelligence was immediately sent to Liakhmon to Col Wight - next morning Col Wight arrived in Far West with about 100 mounted and armed men. The troops were constantly kept prepared, and in a situation to repel attack - The evening the militia arrived near Far West, it was the general understanding in the Mormon Camps that they were militia legally called out, ~~previous~~ and indeed previous to their arrival it was ascertained that there were militia on their way to Far West. - Some months ago I received orders to destroy the paper concerning the Danite Society, which order was issued by the first presidency, and which paper being the constitution for the government of the Danite Society, was in my custody, but which I did not destroy - It is now in Genl Clark's possession - I gave the paper up to Genl Clark after I was taken prisoner - I found it in my house, where I had previously deposited it, and believe it had never been in any person's possession after I first rec'd it - This paper was taken into Priest Rigdon's house and read to the prophet & his counsellors, and was unanimously adopted by them as their rule and guide in future - After it was thus adopted I was instructed by the Council to destroy it, as, if it should be discovered, it would be considered treasonable - This constitution, after it was approved of by the first presidency was read article by article to the Danite band and unanimously adopted by them - This paper was drawn up about the time that the Danite band was formed - Since the drawing up of the paper against the dissenters, it was, that this constitution of the Danite band was drafted - but I have no minutes of the time, as we were directed to keep ~~no~~ written minutes - which constitution above referred to is as follows -



"Whereas in all bodies laws are necessary, for the permanency, safety, and well being of society, We the members of the society of the daughter of Zion, do agree to regulate ourselves under such laws as our rights and ours shall be deemed necessary for the preservation of our holy religion, and of our most sacred rights, and the rights of our wives and children. But to be explicit on the subject, it is especially our object, to support and defend the rights conferred on us by our venerable sires, who purchased them with the pledges of their lives, their fortunes, & their sacred honours. And now to prove ourselves worthy of the liberty conferred on us by them, in the providence of God, we do agree to be governed by such laws, as shall perpetuate these high privileges, of which we know ourselves to be the rightful possessors, and of which privileges wicked and designing men have tried to deprive us, by all manner of evil, and that purely in consequence of the tenacity we have manifested in the discharge of our duty towards our God, who had given us those rights and privileges, and a right in common with others to dwell on this Land. But we not having the privileges of others allowed unto us, have determined, like unto our fathers to resist tyranny whether it be in kings, or in people. It is all alike unto us, our rights we must have, and our rights we shall have in the name of Israel's God.

Article 1<sup>st</sup>

All power belongs originally, and legitimately to the people, and they have a right to dispose of it as they shall deem fit. But as it is inconvenient, and impossible to convene the people in all cases, the legislative powers have been given by them from time to time into the hands of a representation, composed of delegates from the people themselves. This is and has been the law, both in civil and religious bodies, and is the true principle.

Article 2<sup>nd</sup>

The executive power shall be vested in the president of the whole church and his Counsellors.

Article 3<sup>rd</sup>

The legislative powers shall reside in the president and his counsellors together, and with the generals and



The Legislative power shall reside in the President and his Counsellors together and with the Generals and Colonels of the Society. By them all laws shall be made regulating the Society.

Article 4<sup>th</sup>

All officers shall be during life and good behavior or to be regulated by the law of God.

Article 5<sup>th</sup>

The Society reserves the power of electing all its officers with the exceptions of the Aids and Clerks which the officers may make in the various stations. The nomination to go from the Presidency to his second and from the second to the third in rank and so down thro all the various grades each branch or department retains the power of electing its own particular officers.

Article 6<sup>th</sup>

Punishments shall be ~~afflicted~~ administered to the guilty in accordance to the offense and no member shall be punished without law or by any other than those appointed by law for that purpose. The Legislature shall have power to make laws regulating punishments as in their judgments shall be wisdom and righteousness.

Article 7<sup>th</sup>

There shall be a Secretary whose business it shall be to keep all the Legislative records of the Society and also to keep a Register of the names of any member of the Society also the rank of the officers.

He shall also communicate the laws to the Generals as directed by laws made by the regulation of such business by the Legislature.

Article 8<sup>th</sup>

All officers shall be subject to the Commands of the Captains General given ~~to the~~ through the Secretary of War and so all officers shall be subject to their superiors in rank according to laws made for that purpose.



Whereas in all bodies laws are necessary for the  
 permanent safety and well being of society we the  
 members of the Society of the Daughters of Zion do agree  
 to regulate ourselves under such laws as in righteous  
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 Venerable Sires who purchased them with the pledges  
 of their lives fortunes and sacred honours. And  
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 on us by them in the providence of God we do agree  
 to be governed by such laws as shall perpetuate these  
 high privileges of which we know ourselves to be the  
 rightful possessors and of which privileges men and  
 designing men have tried to deprive us by all manner  
 of evil and that purely in consequence of the leniency  
 we have manifested in the discharge of our duty towards  
 our God who had given us these rights and privileges  
 and a right no common with others to dwell on this  
 land. But we not having the privileges of others  
 all oned unto us have determined like unto our Fathers  
 to resist Tyranny whether it be in Kings or in people  
 It is all alike to us our rights we must have and  
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All officers shall be subject to the commands of the Captain General, given through the Secretary of war, and so all officers shall be subject to their superiors in rank, according to laws made for that purpose.

In connection with the grand scheme of the prophet his preachers and apostles were instructed to preach to and to instruct their followers, (who are estimated in Europe & America at about 40,000) that it was their duty to come up to the State called Far West and to possess the kingdom, that it was the will of God that they should do so, & that the Lord would give



give them power to <sup>repeal</sup> the Kingdom — There was another writing drawn up in June last, which had for its object to get rid of the dissenters, and which had the desired effect. [This is the paper drawn up against the dissenters referred to above by the witness] — Since that time, and since the introduction of the scheme of the prophet made known in the above constitution, I have the prophet say that it was a fortunate thing that we got rid of the dissenters, as they would have endangered the rolling on of the Kingdom of God, as introduced and to be carried into effect by the dance bands, that they the dissenters were great obstacles in the way, and that unless they were removed, the aforesaid Kingdom could not roll on — This paper against the dissenters was drafted by Sidney Rigdon and is as follows:

" Far West June 1838  
 " To Oliver Cowdery, David Whitmer, John Whitmer William W. Phelps, and Lyman E. Johnson. greeting  
 Whereas the citizens of Caldwell county have borne with the abuse received from you at different times and on different occasions, until it is no longer to be endured, neither will they endure it any longer, having exhausted all the patience they have, and conceiving that to bear any longer is a vice instead of a virtue. We have borne long, and suffered incredibly, but we will, neither bear nor suffer any longer, and the decree has gone forth from our hearts, and shall not return to us void — Neither think gentlemen that in so saying we are trifling with either you or ourselves for we are not. There are no threats from you, no fear of losing our lives by you, or by any thing you can say or do will restrain us, for out of the county you shall go, and no power shall save you — And you shall have three days after you receive this communication to you, including twenty four hours in each day for you to depart, with your families peaceably, which you may do undisturbed by any person, but in that time if you do not depart we will use the means in our power to cause you to depart, for so you shall — We will have no more promises to reform



as you have already done, and in every instance violated your promise, and regarded not the covenant which you had made, but put both it and us at defiance. We have solemnly warned you, and that in the most determined manner, that if you did not cease that course of wanton abuse of the citizens of this county, that vengeance would overtake you sooner or later, and that when it did come, it would be as furious as the mountain torrent, and as terrible as the beating tempest, but you have affected to despise our warnings, and pass them off with a sneer, or a grin, or a threat, and pursued your former course, and vengeance sleepeth not, neither does it slumber, and unless you heed us this time, and attend to our request it will overtake you, at an hour when you do not expect, and at a day when you do not look for it. and for you there shall be no escape, for there is but one decree for you, which is depart—depart, or a more fatal calamity shall befall you—

After Oliver Cowdrey had been taken by a State War-  
rant for stealing and the stolen property found in the house of William W Phelps in which nefarious transaction John Whitmer had also participated, Oliver Cowdrey stole the property conveyed it to John Whitmer and John Whitmer to William W Phelps and thus the officers of the law found it. While in the hands of the officer and under an arrest for this vile transaction, and if possible to hide your shame from the world like criminals which indeed you were, you appealed to our beloved brethren Presidents Joseph Smith Jr, Sidney Rigdon men whose character you had endeavored to destroy by every artifice you could invent, not even the basest lying excepted, and did you find them revengeful? no but notwithstanding all your scandalous attacks still such was the nobleness of their character that even vile enemies could not appeal to them in vain.

They enlisted as you well know their influence to save you from your just fate, and they by their influence delivered you out of the hands of the officer, while you were pleading with them you promised reformation, you bound yourselves by the most solemn promises that you would never be employed again in abusing any of the citizens of Caldwell, and by such condescensions did you attempt to escape the work house. But now for the



Sequel) Did you practice the promised reformation? you  
know you did not, but by secret efforts, continued to prac-  
tise your iniquity, and secretly to injure their character  
notwithstandg their kindness to you. Are such  
things to be borne, you yourselves would answer that  
they are unsufferable. If you were to answer according  
to the feelings of your own hearts, As we design this  
paper to be published to the world we will give an  
epitome of your scandalous conduct and treachery for  
the last ten years. We wish to remind you that Oliver Cowdery  
and David Whitmer were among the principal of those who  
were the means of gathering us to this place by their testimony  
which they gave concerning the plates of the book of Mormon;  
That they were shown to them by an Angel which testimony  
we believe now as much as before you had so scandalous-  
ly disgraced it; Now commenced your wickedness by heading  
a party to disturb the worship of the Saints in the first  
day of the week and made the house of the Lord in Hirtland  
to be a scene of abuse and slander, to destroy the reputation  
of those whom the church had appointed to be their teachers  
and for no other cause, only that you were not the persons

The Saints in Hirtland having elected Oliver Cowdery to  
be a justice of the peace, he used the power of that office to take  
their most sacred rights from them and that contrary to law

He supported a parcel of Blacklegs and in disturbing  
the worship of the saints, and when the men whom <sup>the</sup> church  
has chosen to preside over their meetings endeavored to put  
the house to order, he helped (and by the authority of his justices  
office too) these wretches to continue their confusion and threat-  
ened the church with a prosecution for trying to put them  
out of the house, and issued writs against the Saints for endea-  
voring to sustain their rights, and bound themselves under  
heavy bonds to appear before his honor, and required bonds  
which were both inhuman and unlawful, And one of these  
was the venerable father who had been appointed by the  
church to preside, a man of upwards of seventy years  
of age, and notorious for his peevish habits, Oliver Cow-  
dery, David Whitmer and Lyman E. Johnson united with a  
gang of counterfeiters, thieves, liars, and blacklegs of the  
deepest dye to deceive, cheat, and defraud the Saints out of  
their property, by every art and stratagem which wicked-  
ness could invent, using the influence of the vilest



persecutors to bring vexatious law suits villainous  
 prosecutions, and even stealing not excepted, In the midst  
 of this career, for fear (as) the saints would seek redress at  
 at their hands, they breathed out threatnings of mobs  
 and actually made attempts with their gang to bring mobs  
 upon them. Oliver Cowdery and his gang, such of them  
 as belonged to the church, were called to an account by the  
 church for their iniquity, they confessed repentance and  
 were again restored to the church. But the very first oppor-  
 tunity they were again practicing their former course,  
 while this wickedness was going on in Kirtland Cowdery  
 and his Company were writing letters to Far West in order to  
 attack the characters of every person that they thought were  
 standing in their way. And John Whitmer and William W. Phelps  
 were assisting to prepare the way to throw confusion among  
 the saints of far West. During the full career of Oliver Cow-  
 dery & David Whitmer's Bogus money business got abroad in  
 to the world that they were engaged in it and several gentlemen  
 were preparing to commence a prosecution against Cowdery  
 he finding it out, took with him Lyman E. Johnson, and fled  
 to far west with their families, ~~leaving their property &~~  
 bringing it with him, which has been within a few weeks  
 past obtained by the aured, by means of a search warrant and  
 he was saved from the penitentiary by the influence of two influential  
 men of the place. He also brought notes with him upon which  
 he had received pay and made an attempt to sell them to Mr  
 Arthur of Clay County. And Lyman E. Johnson on his arrival  
 reported that he had a note of one thousand dollars against a prin-  
 cipal man of this Church, when it was a palpable falsehood,  
 and he had no such thing, and he did it for the purpose of in-  
 -juring his character. Shortly after Cowdery and Johnson left  
 Kirtland for far West they were followed by David Whitmer, and  
 whose arrival a general system of slandering and abuse  
 was commenced by you all, for the purpose of destroying  
 the characters of certain individuals whose influence & their  
 regard for righteousness you dreaded, and not only yourselves  
 but your wives and children led by yourselves were busily en-  
 -gaged in it. neither were you contented with slandering  
 and vilifying here but you kept up continual correspondence  
 with your gang of marauders in Kirtland, encouraging  
 them to go on with their iniquity which they did to perfection by  
 leaving false to injure the characters and property of innocent men  
 stealing cheating lying instituting vexatious law suits selling Bogus  
 money and also stones and sand for bogus in which nefarious



business Oliver Cowdery, David Whitmer and Lyman E. Johnson were engaged while you were there, since your arrival here you have commenced a general system of that same kind of conduct in this place, You set up a nasty, dirty, Pettifoggers office pretending to be judges of the law, when it is a notorious fact that you are profoundly ignorant of it, and of every other thing which is calculated to do mankind good, or if you know it you take good care never to practice it. And in order to bring yourselves into notice you began to interfere with all the business of the place trying to destroy the character of our merchants and bring their creditors upon them and break them up. In addition to this you stirred up men of weak minds to prosecute one another for the vile purpose of getting a fee for Pettifogging for one of them. You have also been threatening continually to enter into a general system of prosecuting, determined as you said to pick a plan in the tiller of those who have bought City lots and built upon them not that you can do any thing but cause vexatious lawsuits

And among the most monstrous of all your abominations we have evidence, which when called upon we can produce that letters sent to the post office in this place have been opened, read, and destroyed, and the persons to whom they were sent never obtained them thus ruining the business of the place. We have evidence of a very strong character that you are at this very time engaged with a gang of counterfeiters, coiners and blacklegs, (as some of those characters have lately visited our city from Kirtland and told what they had come for, and we know assuredly), that if we suffer you to continue we may expect and that speedily to find a general system of stealing counterfeiting cheating and burning property, as in Kirtland, for so are your associates carrying on there at this time and that encouraged by you by means of letters you send continually to them, and to crown the whole you have had the audacity to threaten us, that if we offered to disturb you you would get up a mob from Clay and Ray Counties for this intent if nothing else and your threatnings to shoot us if we offer to molest you we will put you from the County of Caldwell so help us God. The above was signed by some 84 Mormons



For next June 1838

To Oliver Cowdrey David Whitmer John  
Whitmer William W. Phelps and Lyman E.  
Johnson Greeting Whereas the Citizens of Caldwell  
County have borne with the abuses received  
from you at different times and on different oc-  
casions until it is no longer to be endured, neither  
will they endure it any longer, having exhausted  
all the patience they have. We have borne long  
and suffered exceedingly, but we will bear nor  
suffer any longer and the decree has gone forth  
from our hearts and shall not return unto us  
void. Neither think gentlemen in so doing we  
are trifling with either you or ourselves for we  
are not. There are no threats from you, no fear  
of losing our lives by you or any thing you can  
say, or do will restrain us for out of the County  
you shall go and no power shall save you, and  
you shall have three days after you receive this our  
Communication to you including twenty four  
hours in each day for you to depart with your  
families peaceably which you may do un-  
disturbed by any person. But in that time if  
you do not depart we will use the means in  
our power to cause you to depart for go you shall.  
We will have no more promises to reform as you  
have already made and in every instance vio-  
lated your promise and regarded not the Covenant  
which you had made, but put both it and us at  
defiance. We have solemnly warned you and  
that in the most determined manner, that if  
you did not cease that course of manifold abuse  
of the Citizens of this County, that vengeance would  
overtake you sooner or later, and that when it did



Come it would be as furious as the Mountain  
 torrent and as terrible as the beating tempest  
 But you have affected to despise our warnings  
 and pass them off with a sneer or a grin or a threat  
 and still pursue your former course - Vengeance sleeps  
 not neither does it slumber; and unless you heed us  
 this time, and attend to our request, it will overtake  
 you at an hour when you do not expect it and at a  
 day when you do not look for it and for you there  
 shall be no escape; for there is but one decree for you  
 which is depart depart or else a more fatal calamity  
 shall befall you After Oliver Cowdrey had been  
 taken by a State Warrant for stealing and the stolen  
 property found concealed in the house of William  
 W. Phelps; in which infamous transaction John  
 Whitmer had also participated - Oliver Cowdrey  
 stole the property conveyed it to John Whitmer  
 and John Whitmer to William W. Phelps and so  
 thus the officers of the law found it. While in the  
 hands of the officers and under an arrest for this  
 vile transaction and if possible to hide your shame  
 from the world like criminals which in and you  
 were, you appealed to our beloved brethren  
 President Rigden Joseph Smith and Sidney  
 Rigden Men whose Character you had enea-  
 voured to destroy, by every artifice you could  
 invent not even the basest lying excepted  
 Notwithstanding all your scandalous attacks,  
 still such was the nobleness of their Character  
 that even vile enemies could not appeal to them  
 in vain They intreated as you well know other  
 influence to save you from your just fate and  
 they by their influence delivered you out of the  
 hands of the officer While you were pleading



with them you promised reformation you bound yourselves by the most solemn promises that you would never be employed again in abusing any of the Citizens of Caldwell and by such Concealment did you attempt to escape the workhouse.

But (Not for the sequel did you practice the promised reformation. You know that you did not but by secret efforts Continued to practice your inequity and clandestinely to injure their Character notwithstanding their Kindness to you. Are such things to be borne? You yourself would answer that they are unsufferable if you were to answer according to the feelings of your own hearts. As we design this paper to be published to the world we will give an epitome of your scandalous Conduct and treachery for the last two years. We wish to remind you that Oliver Corcoran and David Whitmer were among the principals of those who were the means of gathering us to this place by their testimony which they gave concerning the plates of the Book of Mormon, that they were shown to them by an Angel which testimony we believe more as much as before you so scandalously disgraced it. You commenced your wickedness by heading a party to disturb the worship of the Saints of the first day of the week, and make the houses of the Lord in Kirtland to be a scene of abuse and slander to destroy the reputation of those whom the Church had appointed to be their teachers and for no other cause only that you were not the persons. The Saints in Kirtland having elected Oliver Corcoran to be a justice of the peace, he used the power of that office, to take their most sacred rights from them, and that



Contrary to law. He supported a parcel of Blacklegs in disturbing the worship of the Saints - and when the Men whom the Church had Chosen to preside over their Meetings endeavoured to put the house in order Oliver Cowdery by the Authority of his office assisted those wretches in continuing their Confusion and threatened the Church with a prosecution for trying to put them out of the house And issued writs against the Saints for endeavouring to sustain rights And bound them under heavy bonds to appear before his honour - and required bonds which were both inhuman and unlawful

One of those injured men was a man upwards of seventy years of age the venerable Father who had been appointed by the Church to preside - a man notorious for his peaceable habits

Oliver Cowdery David Whitmer and Lyman C Johnson united with a gang of Counterfeiters thieves, liars, and Blacklegs of the deepest dye to deceive, Cheat and defraud the Saints out of their property by every art and stratagem which McKeith could invent using the influence of the vilest persecutors to bring vexatious lawsuits upon vilanous persecutions and even shooting not excepted In the midst of this career for fear the Saints would take notice at their hands they breathed out threatnings of mobs and actually made attempts with their gang to bring mobs upon them. Oliver Cowdery and his gang such of them as belonged to the Church were called to an account by the Church for their enmity - they Confessed repentance and were again restored to the Church.

But the very first opportunity they were.



again practicing their former course. While this wickedness was going on in Kortland Oliver Cowdrey and his gang were writing letters to Far West in order to destroy the Character of every person they thought were standing in their way. And John Whitmer and William W. Phelps were assisting to prepare the way to throw confusion among the Saints of Far West. During the fall career of Oliver Cowdrey and David Whitmers Bogus money business it got abroad into the world that they were engaged in it, and several gentlemen were preparing to commence a prosecution against Cowdrey. He finding it out took with him Hyman E. Johnson and fled to Far West with this family. Cowdrey stealing a property and bringing it with him; which has within a few weeks past been obtained by the owner by means of a search warrant and he was saved from the Penitentiary by the influence of two influential men of this place. He also brought notes with him upon which he had received pay and had promised to destroy them since here he made an attempt to sell them to Mr Arthur of Clay County. And Hyman E. Johnson on his arrival reported that he had a note of One thousand dollars against a principal man in this Church when it is a fact that it was a palpable falsehood and he had no such thing and he did it for the purpose of injuring his Character. Shortly after Cowdrey and Johnson left Kortland for Far West they were followed by David Whitmer, on whose arrival a general system of slander and abuse was commenced by you all for the purpose of destroying the Character of certain individuals whose influence and strict



regard for righteousness you dread - and not only  
 you but your wives and children led by yourselves  
 more busily engaged in it. Neither were you con-  
 tented with slandering and vilifying here: but you  
 kept up continual correspondence with your  
 gang of Marauders in Kiltana encouraging  
 them to go on with their iniquity which they did  
 to perfection by swearing falsely to impugn the  
 Character and property of innocent men - cheating  
 stealing, lying, and instituting vexatious Law  
 Suits, selling bogus Money, and also stones and  
 sand for bogus Money, in which nefarious business  
 you Oliver Leonard David Whitmer and Lyman  
 E Johnson were engaged while at Kiltana. Since  
 your arrival here you have commenced a general  
 system of the same kind of conduct in this place  
 you got up a nasty dirty pettifoggers office pre-  
 tending to be judges of the law when it is a no-  
 torious fact that you are profoundly ignorant  
 of it. And of every other thing calculated to do  
 mankind good or if you know it you take good  
 care never to practice it. And in order to bring  
 yourselves into notice you began to interfere with  
 all the business of the place trying to destroy  
 the Character of our Merchants and bring  
 their creditors upon them and break them up.  
 In addition to this you started up men of weak  
 minds to prosecute one another, for the vile pur-  
 pose of getting a fee for a pettifogger from them.  
 You have been also been threatening continually to  
 enter into a general system of prosecuting determined  
 as you said to pick a flaw in the titles of those who  
 have purchased City lots and built upon them  
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lawsuits. And among the most monstrous of all your abominations we have evidence which when called upon we can produce; that letters sent to the Post Office in this place have been opened and read and destroyed, and the persons to whom they were sent never obtained them - thus ruining the business of the place. We have evidence of a very strong Character that you are this very time engaged with a gang of Counterfeiters and coiners and blacklegs as some of those Characters have lately visited our City from Kirtland and told what they had come for, and we know assuredly that if we suffer you to continue we may expect and that speedily to find a general system of Stealing, Cheating, Concocting, and turning property as in Kirtland for so are your associates carrying on there at this time and that encouraged by you by means of letters you send continually to them.

And to crown the whole you have had the audacity to threaten us that if we offered to disturb you - you would get up a mob from Clay and Ray Counties - for this insult if nothing else and your threatenings to shoot us if we offered to molest you we will put you from the County of Caldwell so help us God.

Sampson Avara Geo W. Pittkin (Mile Adams)  
 Ralph Cox Philo Dibble D B Huntington  
 Geo W Robinson Daniel Carn Ebenezer Robin-  
 son Sumner Brace Amasa Symons Daniel  
 Carter S D Hunter Erastus Bingham  
 Alexander McKee Samuel Bent Israel  
 Bartow Eliza Averett Elias Maynard



Oliver Rockwell Elijah Averett Joseph Clark Jr  
 Lorenzo Barnes Joseph Corley Levi W Hancock  
 Stephen Winchester John C Hegler Isaac  
 Hegler Chandler Holbrook Gad Gale Huntington  
 Johnson John Loomy George P Lykes William  
 C Gallaher Anthony Hoar Eubank Howard  
 George Washington Norhus John W Clark  
 Harmon H Hills Cyrus Daniels Lathan  
 Maynard Benjamin Benson Ignatius Bogarth  
 Timothy B Fout Daniel Shearer Sylvester  
 Hulet Solomon Daniel William Stringham  
 Andrew Moore Awell Knight James B Gree  
 Dought Hadding Ezekiel Billington John  
 Hawes John Clark Rufus Allen Torvil  
 M Head Alfred ~~Head~~ Joseph Rose William  
 Havitt Lewis Allen Ayrans Clark Ired  
 Carter Hawley Quene Seymour Brown  
 James Menary James P Allen Ethan  
 Barrows Charles C Rich John Smith  
 Harloe Redfield Joseph Coolidge Edward  
 Leake Jackson Smith Jacob Gater  
 Sydney Tanner James Brashers Joseph  
 Holbrook Nathan Tanner Wernier Carter  
 Ayrans Smith Nelson Maynard Philo Allen.



About the time the dissenters fled, President Bigdon preached a sermon from the text "ye are the salt of the earth; but if the salt have lost its savour, where ~~withal~~ shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men." commonly called the salt sermon, in which the dissenters were ~~compared to~~ <sup>called</sup> the salt that had lost its savour, and that they should be trampled upon, and driven out by the saints, which was well understood by the dissenters to be a part of their duty to do. — When Genl. Lucas men marched up to Far West, Smith told me, as I understood him, that he had said to one of the militia captains, not to come any further as he might get into danger — Smith after erecting his bulwarks, (the night after Genl. Lucas arrived) asked me if I did not think him pretty much of a general and I answered in the affirmative — We were advised all the time to fight valiantly, and that the angels of the Lord would appear in our defence and fight our battles. — In reference to Bogart's battle, I know but little personally as to the start of the troops to fight Bogart — I was called upon to go along with the company, (which was commanded by Patton) as surgeon, this was about midnight, but as I thought a little sleep would do me more good than fighting, I remained at home. — In the morning of the fight, about 6 o'clock I was called on by a Mr. Emmet who informed me that Capt. Learnaught was wounded mortally — I went to Patton about 3 miles from the battle ground, where I found Jos. Smith in present laying hands on the wounded & blessing them to heal them — Asa Cannon was also mortally wounded. I heard the following of the prisoners say he was present in the fight to wit: "Norman the man